NLJ.001.200.003 /5

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD~~

~~S E C R E T~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY • ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

E0 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C) [redacted]

E0 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C)

COUNTRY POLAND/USSR

DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

DISTR. 26 OCTOBER 1964

SUBJECT

KHRUSHCHEV'S OUSTER

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: MAY 2001

E0 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C)

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

REF [redacted] IN [redacted] NO.

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

[redacted]

E0 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (S)

1. THE FIRST HINT OF TROUBLE CAME IN FEBRUARY 1964 WHEN KHRUSHCHE WAS CRITICIZED AT A MEETING OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU. IRRITATED BY THE CRITICISM, KHRUSHCHEV HOTLY OFFERED TO RESIGN. HE WAS ASSURED THAT THIS WAS UNNECESSARY, BUT THE PRESIDIUM MEMBERS URGED HIM TO RE-ESTABLISH THE SPIRIT OF COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND TO CORRECT CERTAIN OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS -- PRIMARILY HIS TENDENCY TO MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING PRESIDIUM MEMBERS.

2. DESPITE HIS PROMISES ON THIS SCORE, KHRUSHCHEV

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794. The transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

E0 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

CONTINUED "ON HIS OWN INDEPENDENT WAY", THUS FORCING LEADING PRESIDIUM MEMBERS TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION. AT THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDIUM ON 13 OCTOBER 1964, SUSLOV AND A MAJORITY OF PRESIDIUM MEMBERS RESUMED THEIR CRITICISM OF KHRUSHCHEV. WHEN THE LATTER AGAIN THREATENED TO RESIGN, THEY INFORMED HIM THAT, ACCORDING TO PRESIDIUM RULES, HE COULD NOT DO SO BY MERELY GIVING ORAL NOTICE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT HE ADHERE TO THE RULES, WRITE OUT HIS REASONS FOR RESIGNATION AND SUBMIT THEM TO THE GROUP. SEEMING TIRED AND UNWILLING TO BATTLE LONGER, KHRUSHCHEV, CITING AGE AND ILL HEALTH AS HIS REASONS, WROTE HIS RESIGNATION, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED.

3. IN THE OPINION OF ONE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL, MARSHAL MALINOVSKIY, WHO WAS A SUPPORTER OF KHRUSHCHEV, MAY EVENTUALLY BE FORCED TO RETIRE.

4. A PEACEFUL GESTURE TOWARD THE CHINESE MAY HAVE PLAYED A MINOR ROLE IN THE DECISION TO OUST KHRUSHCHEV; HOWEVER, "THE ACTION TOOK PLACE ONLY IN THE CORRIDORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE." PREDICTIONS ARE THAT MANY CHANGES WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING BUT, FOR THE SAKE OF ORDERLY TRANSITION, SOME TIME WILL BE ALLOWED TO PASS IN ORDER TO GIVE THE NEW CHIEFS A CHANCE TO PREPARE FOR THESE CHANGES.

5. [redacted] NONE.

END OF MESSAGE

E0 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

E0 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)